

Agreement Allows Direct Shipment of Alaskan Logs to China's Port of Putian

A new agreement between the United States and China now permits Alaskan logs to be shipped directly to China's Port of Putian. On December 16, 2005, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) signed a phytosanitary requirements protocol with China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) regarding phytosanitary requirements for Alaskan log exports to China. The protocol will last two years from the signing of the agreement. Two months before the expiration date, if neither side requests revision or termination, the effective date will automatically be extended for one year. The protocol included eight articles of agreement.

Article 1

The logs for export to China must originally come from Alaska, meet the requirements of the protocol, and enter China at the Port of Putian.

Article 2

Prior to export, the logs will be inspected by APHIS. Appropriate action will be taken to ensure that the logs do not harbor live quarantine insects on the surface. If a quarantine pest is detected during the inspection, the shipment will be ineligible for export. The logs must be reasonably free of twigs and leaves and free of soil. Only current year logged logs will be allowed to be exported to China.

Article 3

Upon a successful inspection, APHIS will issue a phytosanitary certificate for eligible logs, and will include an additional declaration stating, "The logs in this shipment will be fumigated for wood borers upon arrival in the Putian Port of China."

Article 4

The State Administration of Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine (CIQ) will conduct a quarantine inspection of the Alaskan logs upon the arrival at the Port of Putian in China. If live quarantine insects are detected on the logs, AQSIQ will inform APHIS. APHIS will conduct an investigation and provide the investigation results to AQSIQ. APHIS will intensify the quarantine inspection so as to avoid the reoccurrence of similar problems in the future.

Article 5

The logs will be fumigated at the Putian Treatment Facility under CIQ supervision. The logs would be eligible for entry after the fumigation.

Article 6

If there are multiple detections of live quarantine pests, twigs, leaves or soil on the logs, AQSIQ may suspend the import of Alaskan logs. Entry would not be allowed until the United States improves its measures.

Article 7

If new pests occur on Alaskan logs, APHIS will notify AQSIQ in a timely fashion in order to conduct a risk assessment.

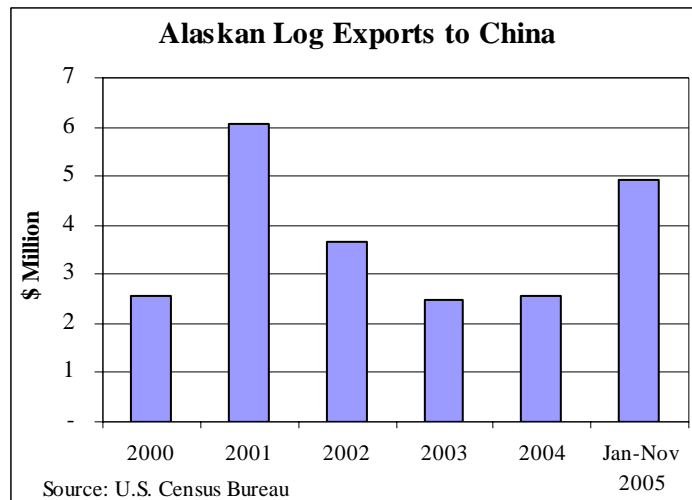
Article 8

AQSIQ will send two inspectors to Alaska the first year of the program to conduct a site visit, which will include the pest occurrence situation on Alaskan logs, U.S. quarantine inspection, log loading, etc.

Background:

In July 2001, China began requiring phytosanitary certificates stating that imported logs were free of pests. Logs with bark had additional requirements, including a certificate detailing the method, temperature and time of treatment. Shipments of logs that could not meet these requirements were not allowed entry.

Due to Alaska's unique terrain and isolated geographic area, its logging industry could not meet these requirements. The Alaskan log industry operates across numerous archipelagos and roadless wilderness areas, precluding transportation of logs to centralized fumigation points. In addition, for most of the year, the climate is too cold to allow for efficacious fumigations. In order to meet China's July 2001 log requirements, it was agreed in 2004



that Alaskan logs destined for China could first be fumigated in Japan before being exported to China. While effective, this added to costs and shipment times. APHIS agents worked with local fumigators in Japan and issued phytosanitary certificates after the logs were fumigated.

Alaskan log exports to China totaled \$2.5 million in 2004. Other markets for Alaskan logs included Japan, Korea and Taiwan, which totaled \$50.9 million, \$37.2 million and \$2.9 million, respectively, in 2004.

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Related News:

China Announces Quarantine Requirements for Logs, 2001

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200104/65680180.pdf>

New Timber Quarantine Processing Facility in China

http://www.fas.usda.gov/ffpd/Newsroom/China_Log_Facility_2005.pdf